



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

Monday, April 5, 2004

BROOKS OFFICIATES GROUNDBREAKING OF VISITORS EDUCATION CENTER

Springdale Farm Expands Facility at Northampton Park

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced another exciting expansion at Springdale Farm in Northampton Park. A new Visitors Education Center will be constructed increasing interactive opportunities for visitors and expanding the duties of the day program workers from Heritage Christian Services who will run the facility.

"I am excited to be here today, with all of these partners, to announce this additional expansion at Springdale Farm," said Brooks. "The public-private partnership between Monroe County and Heritage Christian Services has once again proven to be a success. The Visitors Center will not only educate the public about the importance of agriculture in our community, but it will enhance the independence and responsibility of day habilitation participants interacting with the community."

The Springdale Farm Expansion Project includes a Visitors Education Center and a robotic milking parlor. Project costs are \$2,051,000. This funding was provided by a number of private and public sources. Monroe County's share of \$400,000 enabled site improvements such as roads, parking lots, and utility upgrades. Construction of the 9,500 square foot Visitors center has begun and it is expected to be completed and open to the public in the Fall of 2004.

The Visitors Center will serve as the central entry point for all visitors to the farm. The design includes a 1,600 square foot multi-purpose exhibit room, concessions, an information desk, a gift shop, restrooms, vending machines, a first-aid station, equipment rentals, reception facilities, and ATM, computer and video information sites.

Heritage Christian Services, through their partnership with Monroe County, will provide the day-to-day operation of the center. Plans include creating interactive exhibits containing information addressing the importance of agriculture in our lives. The exhibit room will become the educational centerpiece of the building with a theme of "New York State Agriculture, Then and Now."

-more-

“Our partnership with Monroe County has been very fruitful these past ten years,” said Ron Little, Heritage Christian Services Vice President of Finance and Agency Advancement. “The Visitors Center is another major building block for Springdale Farm to be a premier regional destination for wholesome family entertainment and agricultural education.”

Springdale Farm is a public demonstration farm in Northampton Park that welcomes more than 40,000 visitors annually. It is owned by Monroe County and operated by Heritage Christian Services, a thriving human services agency that offers meaningful program opportunities for more than 1,200 children and adults with developmental disabilities. At Springdale Farm, day program participants care for the animals, maintain the grounds and host tours for thousands of schoolchildren each year. For more information, call 352-5320 or visit www.springdalefarm.org.

###

*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
See us on the Web at www.monroecounty.gov*